

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed March 9, 2009, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Entry of the present amendment and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 5-7 and 21 remain in this application, where claims 3 and 11-20 had been previously canceled without prejudice, and claims 4, 8-9 and 10 have been currently canceled without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to reintroduce subject matter deleted herein at a later time during the prosecution of this application or continuing applications. Claim 1 is independent.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings for allegedly not showing every feature of the invention specified in claims 1, 3-4 and 8-16. Without agreeing with the position forwarded in the Final Office Action and in the interest of advancing prosecution, claim 1 has been amended and claims 4, 8 and 10 have been canceled without prejudice, so that every feature

of the claims is shown in the drawings. Accordingly, withdrawal of the drawings objection is respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, claims 1-2, 4-10 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Without agreeing with the position forwarded in the Office Action and in the interest of advancing prosecution, claim 1 has been amended for better clarity and claims 4 and 10 have been canceled without prejudice. It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-2, 4-10 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph has been overcome and an indication as such is respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, claims 1-2, 5-7 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,607,135 (Hirai). Further, claims 4 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hirai. Applicant respectfully traverses and submits that claims 1-2, 5-7 and 21, as amended, are patentable over Hirai for at least the following reasons.

Hirai is directed to IC-card module (A) that includes an IC chip 2 mounted on a substrate 1, an antenna coil 3 formed on the substrate 1, and a protective member bonded to the substrate 1 to cover the IC chip 2. As shown on FIG 1, a clearance (S) is

provided between the protective member 4 and the IC chip 2 for avoiding direct contact of the protective member 4 with the IC chip 2. The clearance (S) is loaded with a filler 6 having a low modulus of elasticity, as required. The protective member 4 includes a reinforcing member 8.

It is respectfully submitted that Hirai does not disclose or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, which, amongst other patentable elements, recites (illustrative emphasis provided):

an integrated circuit provided with a plurality of semiconductor elements located at the active area of the semiconductor substrate at the first surface of the semiconductor substrate, ...

a mask formed over the second surface of the semiconductor substrate, ...

wherein the mask is substantially confined at the active area over the integrated circuit and protects the integrated circuit during removal of portions of the semiconductor layer which are not covered by the mask so that the semiconductor substrate is substantially confined to an area of the integrated circuit and is absent in areas between the antenna and the integrated circuit.


A mask formed over the second surface of the semiconductor substrate to protect the integrated circuit formed at the first surface of the very same semiconductor substrate is nowhere

disclosed or suggested in Hirai. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1, should be allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2, 5-7 and 21 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from amended independent claim 1.

In addition, Applicant denies any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicant reserves the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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